medium irrigation works and lift irrigation schemes are also programmed for execution next year.

A new scheme of flood control in respect of Karamana and Killiyar rivers and Thottappally areas has been drawn up and it is proposed to start its execution next year.

Anti-sea Erosion.

The problem of sea erosion became menacing in the later years of the First Plan period and an experimental scheme for providing protection to the worst affected areas was, therefore, taken up in January 1955. A more comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for implementation during the Second Plan period. This scheme, when implemented, will afford protection to all parts of the State coast line which have been affected by sea-erosion in the past. A substantial part of the programme will be implemented in the next year.

Electricity.

There has been remarkable progress in the development of power and the targets set for the First Five Year Plan have almost been achieved. The erection of the fourth generating set at Poringalkuthu, commencement of the preliminary works connected with the Panniyar and Sholayar Schemes and the execution of the Neriyamangalam Scheme are the important activities of the Department for the current year. The work on these will be continued next year.

A heavy programme of transmission and distribution works with the object of supplying electricity to every nook and corner of the State has been drawn up, so that new vistas of employment in big and small industries both in urban and rural areas may be opened.

Education.

In furtherance of the policy of making education free in the Middle Schools, Government had abolished fees in Forms I and II from the beginning of 1954–55. Further strides were made in this direction by abolishing fees in Form III as well from the beginning of the current year. Schemes for the expansion of Basic Education in the State are in progress. A Basic Training College will be started next year to train teachers for implementing the scheme. Measures are also to be taken to improve selected Secondary

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission. The Agricultural College and Veterinary College started in the current year will be properly developed in the next year.

The Pre-University and three year Degree Course are proposed to be introduced by the University during the academic year 1956-57. Three new Polytechnics are to be opened in addition to starting new courses in technical and technological institutions.

Backward Classes.

My Government have been keenly interested in measures for the amelioration of the Backward Classes. Various measures have been adopted to improve the educational, cultural, social and economic condition of the Backward Communities. My Government will, intensify these activities and expand their scope.

Schemes for the free education of members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, welfare schemes, medical aid, aid through co-operative societies, Housing Schemes, Public Health facilities, schemes for agricultural and rural development for the benefit of the backward classes are among the various measures that are to be continued during the coming year. The condition of the Backward Classes has considerably improved during the First Plan period. It is expected that during the next Plan period greater results will be achieved in improving the condition of Backward Classes in the State.

Hill Tribes

With a view to suggesting measures for the improvement of the conditions of the Hill Tribes, a Committee was appointed to enquire into this matter. This Committee have submitted an interim report which is now under the consideration of my Government. A further report, from them is expected shortly. It is hoped that as a result of the orders passed on these reports, there will be substantial improvement in their conditions.

Labour.

The promotion and maintenance of industrial peace and the safe-guarding of the interests of both the employee and the employer will be the anxious concern of my Government. Schemes have been formulated for labour-housing which are being carried out. In the Second Five Year Plan, a scheme has been included for Plantation Labour-housing.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly